

National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594

Brief of Accident

Adopted 09/06/2001

|  |  |            |           |  |   |                         |            |
|--|--|------------|-----------|--|---|-------------------------|------------|
| ANC01LA036<br>File No. 10439                           |  | 02/06/2001 | Anvik, AK | Aircraft Reg No. N3334M                        |   | Time (Local): 14:30 AST |            |
| Make/Model: Piper / PA-12                              |  |            |           | Fatal  |   | Serious                 | Minor/None |
| Engine Make/Model: Lycoming / O-235                    |  |            |           | Crew   | 0 | 1                       | 0          |
| Aircraft Damage: Substantial                           |  |            |           | Pass   | 0 | 0                       | 2          |
| Number of Engines: 1                                   |  |            |           |  |   |                         |            |
| Operating Certificate(s): None                         |  |            |           |  |   |                         |            |
| Type of Flight Operation: Personal                     |  |            |           |  |   |                         |            |
| Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation |  |            |           |  |   |                         |            |
| Last Depart. Point: Grayling, AK                       |  |            |           | Condition of Light: Day                        |   |                         |            |
| Destination: Holy Cross, AK                            |  |            |           | Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility |   |                         |            |
| Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip                |  |            |           | Basic Weather: Instrument Conditions           |   |                         |            |
|  |  |            |           | Lowest Ceiling: 100 Ft. AGL, Overcast          |   |                         |            |
|  |  |            |           | Visibility: 1.25 SM                            |   |                         |            |
|  |  |            |           | Wind Dir/Speed: 250 / 004 Kts                  |   |                         |            |
|  |  |            |           | Temperature (°C): -6                           |   |                         |            |
|  |  |            |           | Obstr to Vision: Fog                           |   |                         |            |
|  |  |            |           | Precipitation: None                            |   |                         |            |
| Pilot-in-Command                                       |  | Age: 60    |           | Flight Time (Hours)                            |   |                         |            |
| Certificate(s)/Rating(s)                               |  |            |           | Total All Aircraft: 1500                       |   |                         |            |
| Private; Single-engine Land                            |  |            |           | Last 90 Days: Unk/Nr                           |   |                         |            |
| Instrument Ratings                                     |  |            |           | Total Make/Model: 1200                         |   |                         |            |
| None   |  |            |           | Total Instrument Time: 5                       |   |                         |            |

The private certificated pilot departed a remote village on a VFR cross-country flight along the Yukon River. As the flight progressed, the pilot said he encountered fog, and descended to maintain visual contact with the ground. The airplane suddenly collided with snow-covered terrain, and received damage to the wings, fuselage, and landing gear. Weather conditions in the area were reported as 100 feet overcast, and the visibility was 1.25 statute miles.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

|                |            |           |                         |                         |
|----------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ANC01LA036     |            |           |                         |                         |
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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
2. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT

Findings

3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

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The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.  
The pilot's continued VFR flight into instrument meteorological conditions, and subsequent in-flight collision with terrain during descent. Factors in the accident were the presence of fog, and snow-covered terrain.